



NEWS

**For Immediate Release
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Grand Junction Disposal Site To Accept Contaminated Material

(Grand Junction, CO)—On April 21, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) will open the Grand Junction Disposal Site, previously known as the Cheney Disposal Cell, to accept contaminated materials from the interim repository operated by the City of Grand Junction, as well as some uranium mill tailings and tailings-contaminated material from other sources such as street repair spoil from Monticello, Utah, and contaminated filters from the water treatment plant at Tuba City, Arizona. The water treatment plant is operated by the Uranium Mill Tailings Remedial Action (UMTRA) Ground Water Project that is managed by the DOE Grand Junction Office.

The disposal cell, located 18 miles south of the City of Grand Junction, was built to safely contain the contaminated materials removed from Grand Junction vicinity properties and the Climax Uranium Millsite during the UMTRA Project. All materials removed during the UMTRA Project and during the cleanup of the DOE Grand Junction Office (GJO) site were placed in the cell by September 1998. Since then, the State of Colorado has managed the removal of uranium mill tailings and tailings-contaminated materials from Grand Junction streets and associated underground utility lines as well as private properties. The State also coordinates the temporary storage of this radioactive material, currently approximately 2,200 cubic yards.

A cover was placed over the completed portion of the cell and that portion was closed. The remaining portion of the cell is opened annually for as long as needed. This year, the cell is scheduled to be open for approximately 6 weeks. As prescribed by federal legislation, the open portion of the disposal cell will accept contaminated materials until 2023 or until the design capacity is reached.

(more)

S.M. Stoller Corporation operates the disposal cell under contract to DOE–GJO and provides weekly security checks and environmental monitoring throughout the year. Questions pertaining to the removal of uranium mill tailings should be directed to Paul Oliver, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE), at (970) 248–7171.

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